

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (canceled).

Claim 10. (currently amended) A method for ~~channel coding and decoding~~ processing data structured in frames, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a particular code mode from a ~~large number~~ plurality of ~~possible predefined~~ code modes;

source-coding data bits, contained in a frame, in accordance with the particular code mode;

identifying the particular code mode via at least one mode bit contained in the frame; and

channel-coding a first portion of the data bits and the at least one mode bit ~~in a standard manner~~ consistently and independently of the particular code mode.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A method for ~~channel coding and decoding~~ processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim ~~13~~ 10, wherein the step of selecting the particular code mode includes matching the particular code mode to at least one of a quality of a transmission channel and a network load.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A method for ~~channel coding and decoding~~ processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim ~~13~~ 10, wherein the at least one mode

bit contains at least one of signaling information and information for describing reception quality.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A method for ~~channel coding and decoding~~ of processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim ~~13~~10, the method further comprising the steps of:

using convolution codes for the step of channel coding; and

selecting the first portion of the data bits as a function of a length ~~of influence~~ of the convolution code.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A method for ~~channel coding and decoding~~ of processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim ~~13~~10, the method further comprising the step of:

using the first portion of the channel-coded data bits for channel decoding of the at least one mode bit.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A method for ~~channel coding and decoding~~ of processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim ~~17~~14, ~~the method further comprising the step of:~~

~~using knowledge that wherein~~ the first portion of the data bits is channel-coded ~~in a standard manner~~ consistently for different code modes in the process of decoding.

Claim 16. (currently amended) A method for ~~channel coding and decoding of~~ processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim ~~17~~14, wherein the at least one mode bit is channel-decoded only once.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A system for ~~channel coding and decoding of~~ processing data structured in frames, comprising:

a frame containing data bits which are source-coded in accordance with a particular code mode, the particular code mode being selected from a ~~large number~~plurality of ~~possible~~ predefined code modes, the frame further containing at least one mode bit for identifying the particular code mode of the data bits; and

a processor unit, via which a first portion of the data bits and the at least one mode bit are channel-coded in a ~~standard manner independently~~manner that is consistent and independent of the particular code mode.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A system for ~~channel coding and decoding of~~ processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim ~~20~~17, wherein, via the processor unit, the first portion of the channel-coded data bits is also used for channel decoding the at least one mode bit.